

Lucy Billingsley who founded the Chiapas Project, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to lifting women out of poverty in Latin America.

The Chiapas Project was founded in 2003 when Ms. Billingsley, a Dallas real estate developer, traveled to Chiapas, Mexico with thirty other women to see firsthand how microfinance and microloans effectively helped some of the most disadvantaged women in Mexico's poorest state. The group returned to North Texas with vigorous determination and raised \$790,000 to fund the expansion of a microfinance institution called Alternative Solidaria in Chiapas. This money ultimately lifted roughly 4,000 women out of poverty. Today, the Chiapas Project has set new goals and is working toward raising more money for microfinance initiatives across Latin America.

Recently Ms. Billingsley was honored at the Dallas Regional Chamber's 14th Annual International Business Achievement Awards luncheon where she received the Individual Award. Additionally, the Chiapas Project was commended for raising the global awareness of North Texas as an international business center in Latin America and across the world.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing both Lucy Billingsley and the Chiapas Project for the great work they have done to help disadvantaged women and families in Latin America.

#### HONORING THE MIAMI MEDICAL TEAM FOUNDATION

#### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 2010*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to Honor the Miami Medical Team Foundation, MMTF, a South Florida non-profit organization dedicated to improving medical conditions in third world countries. The Miami Medical Team Foundation has provided humanitarian assistance to countries that are hit by disasters.

Since 1980, the MMTF has helped families recoup from floods and hurricanes. In order to combat all disasters, The Miami Medical Team Foundation is comprised of doctors that specialize in different medical fields. These doctors go to great lengths to provide service for those in need. The Miami Medical Team Foundation provides relief to individuals and families by supplying food, clothing, medications, and other necessities. In addition to sending these supplies, The Miami Medical Team Foundation donates medical equipment to hospitals in affected countries. This wonderful organization provides relief missions ranging from basic health to refugee assistance. In addition to their excellent service, the MMTF covers all of the expenses of these relief missions. This self-funded foundation is truly committed to the greater good and I strongly commend their efforts.

I extend my gratitude to all of the employees and volunteers in The Miami Medical Team Foundation especially their chairman and president, Dr. Manuel Alzugaray, for all of his hard work and dedication. Dr. Manuel Alzugaray has been committed to helping others since the beginning of his long career. Through his studies, he has become a cer-

tified expert in matters dealing with terrorism and homeland security. He is a board certified expert in traumatic stress, making him a keen asset when dealing with sensitive global catastrophes. He has become an expert in treating those who have suffered mentally from the havoc of natural disasters. Dr. Alzugaray never ceases to make a tangible difference in the lives of many around the world.

The Miami Medical Team Foundation is devoted to serving anyone in need around the world and I strongly commend all of its efforts. I wish each and every member and volunteer the utmost success and again offer my utmost appreciation for all they do.

#### HONORING THE 3RD BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

#### HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 2010*

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding service of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, "Spartans," 10th Mountain Division, as they complete their service in Afghanistan and return to their families and loved ones.

I am tremendously proud of the brave soldiers of the 3rd BCT who have sacrificed so much to keep our Nation safe. The family members of these soldiers must also be recognized, enduring through the Spartans' year-long deployment and providing their unwavering support as they return home.

The 3rd Brigade Combat Team was led during their missions in Afghanistan by COL David B. Haight and CSM Delbert D. Byers. The brigade consists of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Battalion, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, 710th Brigade Support Battalion, and the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

The Spartans began their deployment to Afghanistan in December of 2008 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Their assigned area of operations covered Wardak and Logar 1st-32nd Provinces, with the 1st-32nd detached to operate in Kunar Province. The 3rd BCT guarded the southern approaches to Kabul. If enemy forces sought to attack the city from the south, they had to get through the Spartans first.

The 3rd BCT's deployment to the area was significant in another way as well. Their operations marked the first time during Operation Enduring Freedom that International and Security Assistance Force, ISAF, units conducted counterinsurgency operations in either Wardak or Logar provinces. Before the Spartans arrived in country, only Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police operated in the provinces; these forces were isolated and confined to local areas.

The Brigade's units partnered with Afghan security forces to help develop their capacity and overall professionalism, ultimately playing a pivotal role in returning the security of Afghanistan over to the Afghan people. Aggressive counterinsurgency efforts resulted in low morale among insurgents and surviving leadership fleeing the region.

3rd BCT's operations resulted in 419 detainees, 236 enemy killed, and 120 enemy wounded. At the same time, the Spartans had 311 friendly casualties and 32 brave Soldiers killed in action.

They have truly performed in the best of Fort Drum's traditions and deserve our heartfelt thanks. It is with sincere gratitude that I recognize them before Congress today.

#### CONGRATULATING MCCALL BUTLER

#### HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 2010*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate McCall Butler, a student at Troup County Comprehensive High School, on his selection as a member of the State Student Advisory Council for the 2009-2010 school year. McCall was one of 53 students selected by state schools superintendent Kathy Cox. As a council member he will have the honor of discussing state policies with fellow members as well as with superintendent Cox several times during the school year. He will also have the honor of serving as an ambassador for the superintendent within his school.

The relationship between students and educators that this council facilitates is invaluable for improving and monitoring state policy. "It gives me a tremendous insight into how state policies and procedures are working in the classroom and it allows me to communicate directly with students in schools throughout Georgia," superintendent Cox has said.

McCall is an outstanding Georgia scholar. He is dedicated to giving a voice to the concerns of his school and its vital programs. Upon receiving the honor he commented, "A big reason for me to apply was because the Career Technical Agriculture Education programs at our school are very important to me, and I want to make sure they have continued funding going toward local, regional and state activities."

McCall will undoubtedly serve the interests of the students of Georgia and especially his school very well.

We appreciate the service provided by McCall and his fellow members on the State Student Advisory Council. I congratulate McCall on behalf of the people of Georgia's 3rd District and wish him continued success in his academic endeavors.

#### FRESH THINKING ON SUPPORTING ISRAEL

#### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 2010*

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to place into the RECORD a compelling op-ed written by Representative GEORGE MILLER, which appeared recently in the Vallejo Times Herald. I have long admired Representative MILLER's thoughtful approach to one of the toughest foreign policy challenges we face—resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In this piece, Representative